

# TORRANCE HERALD

November 7, 1946

Torrance, California

SECTION B

## West Basin Water Petitions Signed By 6066 Voters

A grand total of 6066 signatures were certified, comprising an almost 20 percent petition of voters residing in the West Basin area to bring the question of whether or not a water district should be formed, according to official reports. To bring the question of a district to the ballot only 3531 signatures were necessary, comprising a 10 percent petition of registered voters residing in Redondo Beach, Palos Verdes Estates, Gardena, Hermosa Beach, El Segundo, Hawthorne, Inglewood and Manhattan Beach together with Lomita and other unincorporated areas lying between and surrounding these cities.

With these signatures certified, the matter went before the county board of supervisors at yesterday's session, and a date for a special election will be set by them. According to law, the date set must be not less than 30 days after receipt of the petitions and no longer than 90 days.

Members of the water committee in meeting last night at Inglewood expressed great satisfaction at the final count of registered signatures.

Here is the registered signature count for cities in the West Basin area:

Redondo Beach, 929; (needed 432); Hermosa Beach, 846; (needed 229); El Segundo, 407; (needed 142); Gardena, 445; (needed 169); Hawthorne, 406; (needed 264); Manhattan Beach, 670; (needed 229); Inglewood, 1417; (needed 1080); Palos Verdes Estates, 101; (needed 41); and, unincorporated areas, 854; (needed 772).

All petitioning in South Bay cities was done by volunteer workers, as was petitioning throughout the West basin area with the exception of Inglewood, where professional petitioners were used.

## YEAR IN JAIL FOR TAKING AIRPLANE FROM GARDENA PORT

Judge William R. McKay yesterday sentenced Eugene Toler, 39-year-old Canadian war pilot to one year in the county jail for flying an owner's plane without his permission last August 27. At that time he flew around the Gardena airport for several minutes and was arrested by sheriff's deputies when he landed.

## Torrance Streets Being Paved Under 2-Year Improvement Program

Under a program developed by former City Councilman J. E. Hitchcock and carried out by the street department under G. M. Jain, public works director, and Ralph Perkins, street superintendent, nearly one-tenth of the streets of Torrance have been or are soon to be resurfaced, with definite grades established. In addition, more than six miles of alleys have been resurfaced, completing the program.

This was revealed last week as city workers announced the completion of the alley resurfacing program and were well under way with the major job of regrading, draining and surfacing of Plaza del Amo.

During his long service as a city councilman, Hitchcock had most to do with the street engineering departments, and the accomplishments to date are a compliment to his work, civic leaders declare. Councilman A. E. Jackson, who succeeded to Hitchcock's committee appointment in charge of public works, is carrying out the task under the able direction of Jain and Perkins.

Last year, six and eight-tenths miles of streets, in addition to the six and three-tenths miles of alleys, were resurfaced.

This year more than five miles of street resurfacing is planned, prior to July 1, 1947.

This, according to Jain, has required much burning of the midnight oil in the engineering room by men who first study the project and then proceed to work out ways and means of making the job conform to the city's needs.

Few persons realize the many man-hours of work required to make field studies and surveys, prepare plans and profiles, provide for proper drainage and actually construct a street so that it will provide a long life, city officials said.

The city has more than one hundred miles of streets and less than half of this amount have ever had permanent grades established, nor drainage provided for, other than the lightest surfacing materials applied.

Each spring, in preparing the budget, a complete list is prepared of all streets in need of surfacing, resurfacing or drainage conditions corrected. These are arranged in order of present day condition of surfacing. Streets appearing to have the heaviest traffic, which will serve the greatest number of residents or indicating the shortest life, are then scheduled in their order of greatest urgency.

An analysis is made, the available general fund and gas tax

fund monies summarized, the number of streets and alleys estimated that can be done with the regular maintenance crews and equipment, is compared.

From this a schedule is prepared for both maintenance and construction work for the year.

Gas tax funds are limited as to amount and also as to type of jobs to which such funds can be applied. Where possible, these funds are accumulated from year to year and specifically assigned to construction jobs too large to be done with available general funds. Both state and county funds must be assigned to specific projects of major importance and not to local streets.

These projects must be planned in advance and approved by the respective state or county agency before any funds can be used. Accurate costs are reported in detail to these agencies before the city can be reimbursed for such expenditures.

For the past few years funds from the state and county have averaged about \$5,000 per year from each agency for streets not designated as state highways. An additional amount of \$3,000 a year is allocated by the state for maintenance of Hawthorne Blvd. The State Highway department maintains Pacific Coast highway and uses approximately 60 percent of the city's share of state highway gas tax funds.

It is now the established practice of the Torrance engineering department, before requesting the resurfacing or construction of any street, to obtain complete and accurate profiles and cross-sections of all such streets, lay accurate grades, study and provide for adequate disposal of all surfaces drainage and set grade stakes for the street department or contractor to follow.

These factors determine the life of a street. The type of surfacing is not so important, unless, and until, these factors are accounted for, Jain declares.

Under Torrance's present long range maintenance and construction program, it is planned that in three to four years all streets in the city will be reconstructed permanently or at least an armor coat applied which will require only a minimum of work in resurfacing after several years.

By this plan, future resurfacing required by wear and tear of traffic can be done at very little expense, as the subgrade will be intact.

With the resurfacing of Plaza del Amo from Carson st. to Arlington ave., streets slated for like improvement before the end of the fiscal year are:

Apple ave., from Lincoln to Santa Fe ave.; Arlington ave., from 182nd to 190th sts.; Bailey dr., from Hickman dr. to 182nd st.; Hickman dr., from Bailey dr. to Prairie ave.; Border ave., from Arlington ave. to Dominguez st.; Carson st., from Cranshaw blvd. to Flower ave.; Los Codona ave., 242nd st. to Newton ave.; Maricopa pl., from Acacia to Madrid avenues; Maricopa st., from Acacia to Madrid avenues; Newton ave., from Hawthorne blvd. to Ocean ave.; Ocean ave., Pacific Coast highway to 244th st.; Park st., from 238th to 240th streets; Ward st., from 238th to 240th streets; 203rd st., from Arlington ave. west to St. Joseph Catholic church; 212th st., from Torrance blvd. to Bow ave.; 238th st., Hawthorne blvd. to Madison ave.

Portions of the following streets were finished during the past fiscal year: 218th st., 222nd st., Gramercy ave., Androo ave., Arlington ave., Nosed ave., Santa Fe ave., Via Monte D'Orto, Madrona ave., Yukon ave., 171st st., Amie ave., Elm ave., Florence ave., Madrid ave. and Spencer ave.

## DARBY RETURNS TO DESK, RECOVERED FROM OPERATION

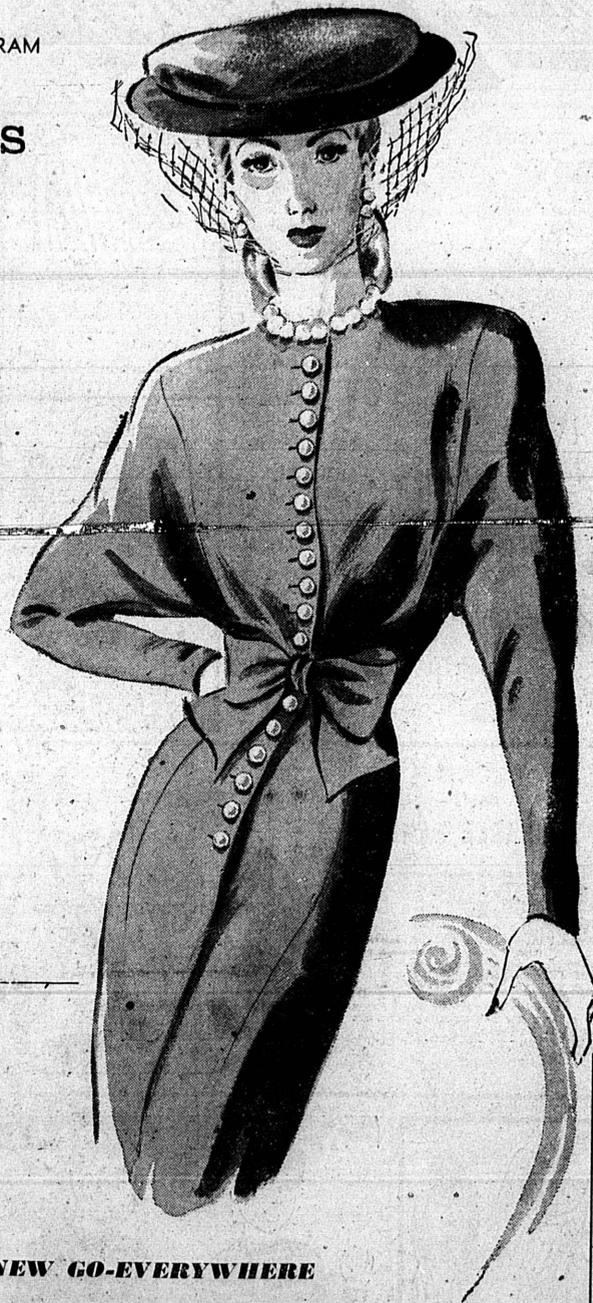
Supervisor Raymond V. Darby who nine days ago underwent a throat operation, has returned to his office to the surprise of his associates who had expected him to be away to December 1. He formally returned to his official duties Wednesday. "I feel fine," he told reporters.

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